

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims **1-27** are pending in the application. Claims **1-27** have been rejected. Claims **1 27** have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve all rights in these Claims to file Divisional or Continuation Applications. Claims **28-34** have been added.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner statement that the informal drawings filed with the present application are acceptable for examination purposes only is acknowledged. Formal drawings will be submitted when the application is allowed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 5 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112§, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the application regards as the invention.

Claims 5 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice, therefore the rejection of these claims is moot.

For purpose of assisting the Examiner expedite prosecution Applicants wish to point out the following:

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wachel (US 2002/0078395). Claims 1-27 have been canceled without prejudice, therefore the rejection of these claims is moot.

Wachel discloses a method of improving network interface reliability using a fail-over mechanism (Wachel's Abstract). According to Wachel, an edge connector of a main card for plugging into the midplane comprises five sets of I/O pins for providing various I/O signals. A first set of pins provides the signals for a 32-bit cPCI bus; a second set of pins provides the signals for a 64-bit extension to the cPCI bus; a third set of pins allow I/O signals to pass through the midplane from transition cards to corresponding main cards; a fourth set of signals (pins – V.S.) allows a second bus to be used to communicate with other network (main and/or transition cards) cards via the midplane; and a fifth set of pins also allows I/O signals to pass through the midplane from transition cards to corresponding main cards. Next, Wachel states that a transition card is coupled to its main card through the third, fourth, and fifth set of pins described above. No other configuration of the transition card or method of operating the PCI type device is disclosed by Wachel.

Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that nowhere in Wachel is it taught or suggested to use at least a portion of the PCI bus for establishing (or enabling to establish) a connection between a rear card and a backup front or rear card as is claimed in the present invention.

Newly added claim 28 recites “a connector for connecting a back I/O card to at least a portion of a PCI bus”;

Newly added claim 29 recites in part “[U]sing a PCI bus connector to establish a connection between a rear I/O card and a second front or rear card”;

Newly added claim 30 recites in part “connecting a rear I/O card to a set of backplane traces associated with a PCI bus of said backplane”;

Newly added claim 31 recites in part “allocating at least a portion of a PCI bus for communications between a rear card and a backup front or rear card”;

Newly added claim 32 recites in part "an isolation relay adapted to route incoming signals from a back card to a backup card through at least a portion of a PCI bus"; and

Newly added claim 33 recites in part "a control circuit...adapted to redirect communications from said rear card to a second front card or a second rear card over at least a portion of a PCI bus."

Claim 34 is dependent upon an allowable based claim and is therefore allowable by virtue of its dependency on an allowable base claim.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 28-34 are not anticipated by Wachel at least for the aforementioned reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks all pending claims are believed to be allowable. Their favorable consideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants note the Examiner's citation of prior art to complete the record.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any additional fees associated with this paper to Deposit Account No. 05-0649.

Respectfully submitted,



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